

Brief Biography

Richard Sennett currently serves as Chair of the UN Habitat Urban Initiatives Group. He is Senior Fellow at the Center on Capitalism and Society at Columbia University and Visiting Professor of Urban Studies at MIT.

Previously, he founded the New York Institute for the Humanities, taught at New York University and at the London School of Economics, and served as President of the American Council on Work.

Over the course of the last five decades, he has written about social life in cities, changes in labour, and social theory. His books include The Hidden Injuries of Class, The Fall of Public Man, The Corrosion of Character, The Culture of the New Capitalism, The Craftsman, and  Building and Dwelling.

Among other awards, he has received the Hegel Prize, the Spinoza Prize, an honorary doctorate from Cambridge University, and the Centennial Medal from Harvard University.

Richard Sennett grew up in the Cabrini Green housing project in Chicago.  He attended the Julliard School in New York, where he worked with Claus Adam, cellist of the Julliard Quartet.  He then studied social relations at Harvard, working with David Riesman, and independently with Hannah Arendt.